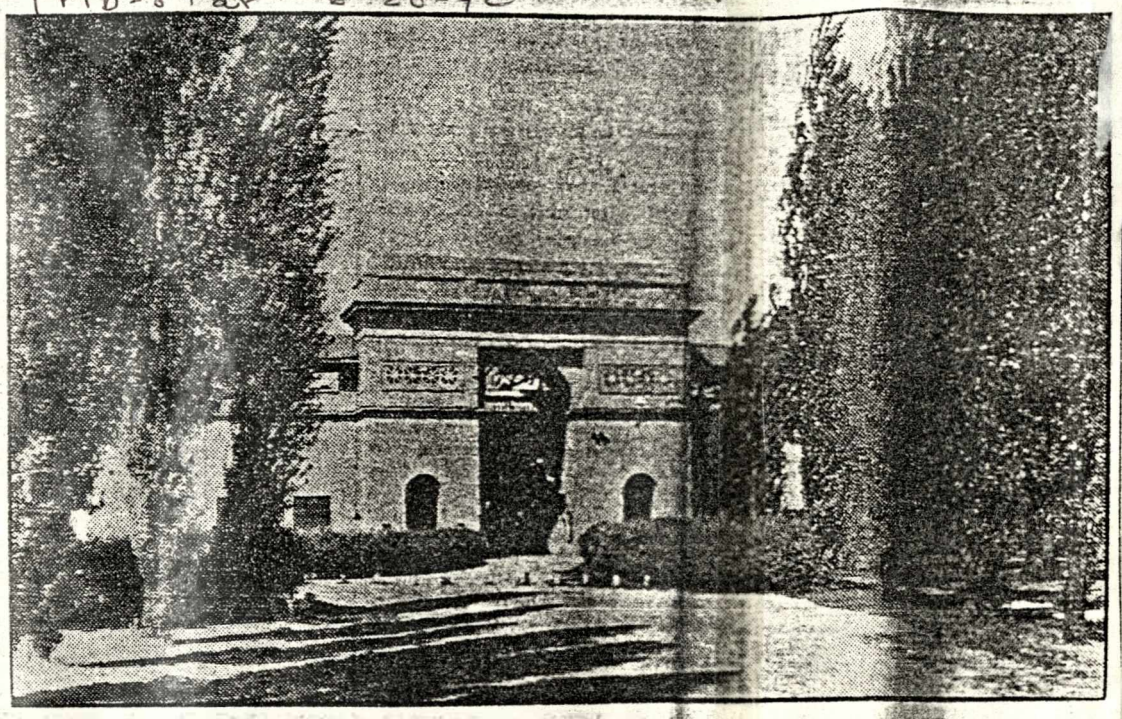
SCENE OF MANY SPORTS ACTIVITIES

Trib-Star 6-28-42



Terre Haute's Memorial Stadium, one of the largest and most beautiful in this section of the country, has been the scene of many a sporting event in recent years. A sporty nine-hole golf course is located on the Stadium grounds, where hundreds of golfers flock each summer.

Jack Schultz and Laverne Calloway, Rose-Herz; Nora Harris and Earl Ruppel, Voorhees Park; Anna Jones, Thompson Park; Arnet Tolliver, Charles Bruce, Inez Jenkins and Clarence Flowers, Booker T. Washington Park.

The pool at Washington Park was opened last Sunday, June 21, and the two life guards placed in charge were Harold Gordon and Gonzella Boston. We are operating [illegible] supervising instruction of archery and tennis. Miss Mildred Jacks will lead recreational activities on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week at the Cruft School playground, for children under thirteen years of age.

The recreation department is supervising the Sunday semi-pro baseball league which plays a double header each Sunday at the Stadium and at West Terre Haute. 2,000 people have been attending these games each week. The West Terre Haute baseball park is being lighted for night softball and such activities will be organized soon. The town board of West Terre Haute has cooperated with the recreation department in the construction of bleachers, a complete wire back stop and a beautiful baseball park. These games are free to the public.

The Terre Haute Recreation Softball League, composed of teams from industrial plants, Boys' Club, college boys and business men, play each Wednesday and Friday at Parson's lighted field.

Volley ball, croquet, horseshoes, table tennis, picnics, tennis, badminton also are on the parks' programs, as well as such special programs as magic and puppet shows, concerts, lawn dances and hikes.

We are operating three out-of-town centers. One, a craft shop in West Terre Haute, is open to the public from 2:30 until 8:30 each day. New Goshen is operating a center, also a playground and lighted ball park, and Mrs. Ada Moore and Tom Strole are the leaders in charge. Mrs. Moore conducts hikes, wiener and marshmallow roasts, and picnics with the adults in New Goshen, while Mr. Strole has softball or baseball each night under the lights. Mr. Curry and Mr. Blacketer are the two leaders in charge at the Shepardsville center. They have a dance each Monday night which ordinarily draws from 150 to 200 adults, and old-fashioned square dances and card parties are held each Thursday.

The advisory board members of Vigo County Recreation include J. Arnold Kreke, chairman; Mrs. Lawrence Herz Joseph, vice chairman; Arthur Strum, treasurer; Mrs. Roger Sutton, secretary; C. A. Banks, Charles Nelson, Mordecai Brown, Louis Hart, Miss Anna Higgins and Bill Evans.

Memorial Stadium

Golf Course Is the Attraction At Stadium

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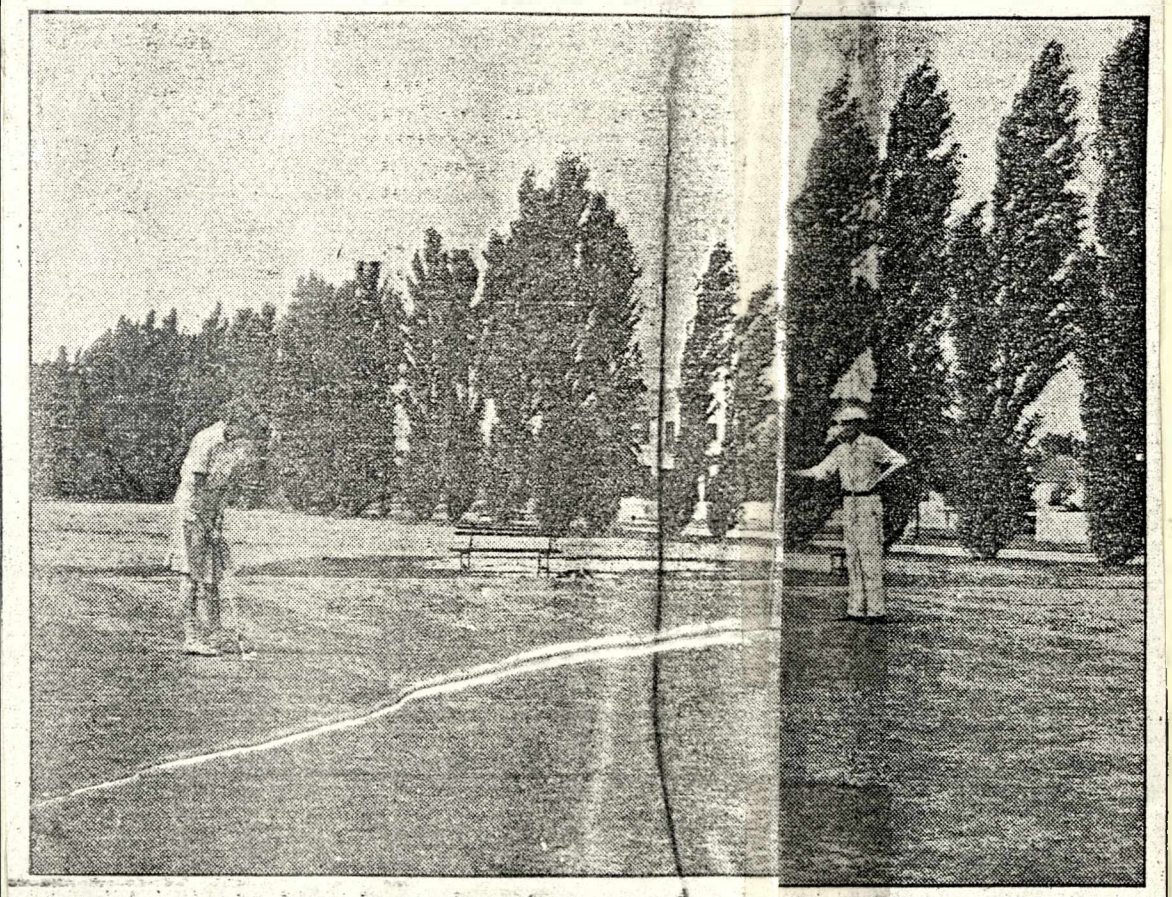

Golfers like the Stadium's nine-hole golf course for its beauty and sportiness. The couple in the above picture are just getting started on the links, and are putting on the recently rebuilt green of the first hole.

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REPORT NINE-HOLE COURSE IN SHAPE

Stadium's Golf Course, With New First Green, In Good Condition.

The Terre Haute Stadium, the city's most elaborate public building, located at Thirteenth street and Wabash avenue, was constructed as a memorial to the men of this community who served in World War I, and houses two large bronze tablets bearing the names of Vigo county men who took part in that conflict.

Today, with America engaged in another struggle with foreign nations, Terre Haute's Memorial Stadium has become all the more popular, being used, in addition to sports activities, for patriotic pageants and war bond rallies.

As for sports, the Stadium is the scene each year and in each season, of many of the outstanding sporting events in this vicinity. City football teams use the Stadium to stage their games during the fall, and many league and benefit baseball games are played there throughout the summer months. The Stadium, with a seating capacity of 14,000, also serves as headquarters for all operations of the parks department, and all park equipment is stored there during the winter.

The Stadium is converted into a garage, storage place and work shop by the parks department in the winter, when all sporting activities have subsided.

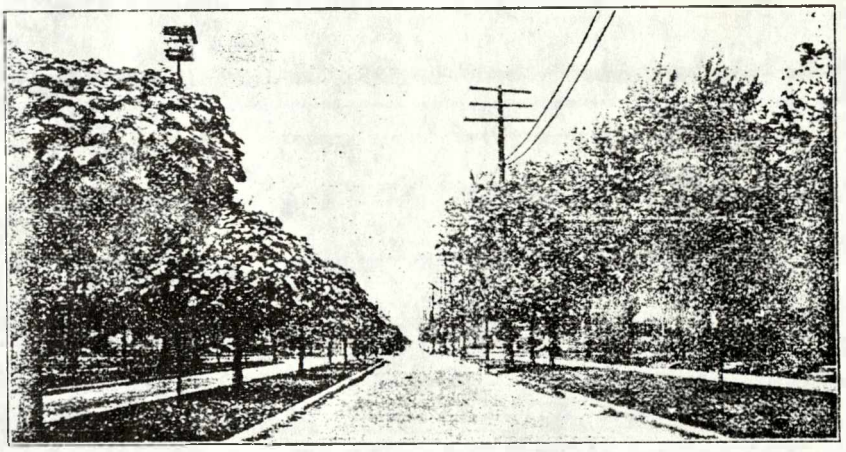
One of the outstanding attractions of the Stadium grounds during the summer is, of course, the attractive nine-hole golf course. Carl Huffman, golf pro, reported that with the exception of the reconstruction of the first green, there have been no changes made to the course this year. However, the course itself, which is one of the sportiest in this community, is in the best shape it has been in for years.

Last year the clubhouse, or pro shop, underwent an extensive remodeling, receiving a new screened-in porch with concrete floor.

The Stadium itself and the surrounding grounds are constantly being improved by employes of the parks department, and new facilities are added. Each year the roof of the Stadium is inspected, and reconditioned if necessary, and bleacher seats are worked over to get them in condition for the customers.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Vigo County Public Library - Parks + Recreation (Vigo Co.)

Vol. #8
Community Affairs File



OHIO BOULEVARD

This beautiful parkway is to be extended one mile east to the new Deming Park

MEMORIAL PARK STADIUM

Great News from the City Park Board

PLANS FOR FAIR GROUND, PURCHASE OF NEW PARK, AND A GIFT FOR ROSE POLYTECHNIC ANNOUNCED

TWO of the most important announcements which have been made by the Terre Haute Park Board since the passage of the present park law were made during the past month. The announcements are important, not only from the great progress in park matters which they reveal, but also from the far-reaching ramifications of the actions taken by the board which will benefit every citizen of this city and of Vigo County through the eventual opening of new and beautiful park areas, the building of a public stadium which will draw visitors to Terre Haute from all over the Middle West, and, indirectly, will be a stepping stone to much larger things in the educational life of the city and county.

A NEW STADIUM

The first of these announcements had to do with the improvements now being contemplated by the Park Board in the old Fair Grounds property which was surrendered to the board by the county for park purposes. Plans have been received from the St. Louis office of George E. Kessler, city planner and park engineer, who was engaged by the Park Board to draw plans for a comprehensive park system during the fall of 1920. These plans provide for a stadium and exhibition building set back on the grounds, surrounded by beautiful trees and garden plots. The stadium will consist of an unusually large area surrounded on nearly all sides by various seating arrangements. On the south side will be the grandstand, seating 3,400 people, flanked on each side by pavilions seating 3,400 persons, which in turn are followed by bleachers on the east and west seating 6,600 people. Opposite the grandstand on the north side of the arena will be a bowl-shaped stadium proper with a seating capacity of 10,000. The arena is approximately 600 feet long by over 300 feet wide. Directly in front of the grandstand, facing north, will be a baseball diamond. There is room for a football gridiron extending either way in the arena, altho it is now expected to have it running from east to west half way from the grandstand to the stadium. However, the exact location can be settled to meet the demands of the schools and colleges of the city from season to season. Encircling the athletic field, will be a quarter-mile cinder race track for field day sports, with an unusually long straight-away on each side. This athletic field will fill a long felt want in Terre Haute and will be available for any organizations desiring to stage field day exercises. The arena is sufficiently large to accommodate such exercises even during the baseball season without disturbing the diamond. In the south-west corner of the grounds, the plans call for a large roomy exhibit hall which can be used for fairs and exhibitions. This building is also surrounded by trees and shrubbery. The entire western side of the grounds is to be laid out as a picnic grounds filled with trees and shrubbery and with a small pavilion in the center. The entire grounds will be encircled by well kept driveways.

DEMING PARK ACQUIRED

The second announcement of the board was to the effect that it had unanimously voted to accept an offer from the Deming Land Company to purchase 155 acres of wooded rolling ground in the eastern portion of the city. This area is bounded on the west by Fruitridge Avenue, on the

south by Poplar street, on the east by Poplar street (township line) and on the north by Calvary cemetery and private estates. The offer of the company was to sell this ground to the city for park purposes to be named Deming Park, for $155,000, of which $100,000 would be given to the Rose Polytechnic Institute, and the balance spent in opening Ohio Boulevard from Twenty-fifth Street to the park, the same plan of parkway being installed as now extends from Nineteenth Street to Twenty-fifth Street. The offer was accepted intact, on the recommendation of a special committee of the Chamber of Commerce. Other civic bodies have since passed resolutions endorsing the proposition and thanking the Deming Land Company and the park board for their part in the matter. The newly acquired ground was recommended to the Park Board on sight by George E. Kessler on a survey of the city and adjacent territory during the fall of last year. Comparatively small expense will be incurred in the opening of the park for public use as it possesses natural park attributes which have attracted the public to its shady areas even when still private property.

ROSE POLYTECHNIC BENEFITS

The resulting gift of $100,000 to Rose Polytechnic Institute carries with it a practical certainty of an additional $200,000 for the school which has meant so much to the young men of Terre Haute and Vigo County. The National Education Board has promised a gift of $100,000 to the school if $200,000 would be raised locally. Mr. Deming's gift provides the first $100,000 of this sum and steps are now being taken by a committee of the Chamber of Commerce and other organizations to raise the remaining $100,000.

THINK IT OVER!

"I belong to too many clubs now. I can't afford it!" This is the excuse sometimes offered by business men for their failure to belong to the Chamber of Commerce. And it is one of those excuses which are worse than none at all.

The Chamber of Commerce is not a club. It is simply the organized citizenship of Terre Haute working for the welfare of the whole community.

It isn't a question of whether you can afford to join. It is more a question of whether you can afford not to. Think it over!

The Terre Haute Casket Company, manufacturers and dealers in burial caskets and funeral supplies, are enthusiastic over the Wabash Valley Empire movement, having found that it tends to popularize Terre Haute products through the Empire.

The Bear Manufacturing Company, manufacturers and jobbers of toilet preparations, state that Terre Haute "could hardly be better" as a distributing point.

Smith-Alsop
Paint and Varnish
Company

PAINT MAKERS

Factory, 104-110 Wabash Avenue
Salesroom, 11 South Seventh Street

Phone Wabash
6018

Armstrong-Walker
Lumber Co.

LUMBER and
BUILDERS' SUPPLIES

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

11th and Spruce

Phone
Wabash 8450

FLOCK TO PARKS ON JULY FOURTH

Fireworks Display At Stadium Expected to Be One of Finest In Years.

Trib-Star 6-28-42

Terre Hauteans, for the most part, are going to stay home this Fourth of July because their automobiles may not be in the fine condition they were a year ago, and for this reason alone city parks are expected to be taxed to the limit with visitors.

Millard W. Nehf, who has charge of this year's Fourth of July celebration at Memorial Stadium, announced last week that his committee is expecting one of the largest crowds in recent years to attend the fireworks display on the evening of the Fourth. Each year Fort Harrison Post No. 40 of the American Legion, sponsors the July Fourth program at the Stadium and thousands of persons flock to these celebrations annually.

According to Mr. Nehf, the 1942 celebration should be one of the most elaborate and colorful that has ever been held. The fireworks this year are being furnished by the Keystone Fireworks and Specialty Company of Dunbar, Pa., and men from this organization already are in town preparing for the display.

There will be no daylight fireworks at the Stadium this year, Nehf said, and so the colorful display probably will not begin until around 9 o'clock in the evening. In place of the day fireworks, however, a mock air raid will be held, starting about 7:30 p. m. Approximately ten airplanes will swarm over the Stadium grounds, and bombs will be set off on the far side of the field. A band concert will entertain the crowd between the "air raid" and the time for the fireworks.

Children from the Gibault, Rose and Glenn Homes will be admitted to the affair without charge.

Proceeds of this year's celebration, it was reported, will go toward promoting the program of the Civilian Defense Corps. The city bus line has cooperated with the Stadium committee.

After 6 o'clock in the evening, a bus will leave the corner of Second street and Wabash avenue bound for the Stadium every three minutes. A fleet of nearly thirty busses will be lined up at the Stadium when the celebration has ended, to bring the visitors back to the city.

Elsewhere in the city, from Fairbanks Park to Deming Park, the parks will be filled with citizens who are seeking a day of relaxation and recreation.

T.H. Recreation

T.H. Trib. 7/8/66.

Transfer of Ownership Considered

By CHARLES CREMER

The future of Memorial Stadium will be the subject of a discussion scheduled for Monday at 8 p.m. at Hulman Center among representatives of the City Park Board, municipal and county officials, and officers of Indiana State University.

The meeting has been called by William L. White, president of the Park Board, in a continuing effort to resolve the future use of the facility.

Community leaders are exploring the possibility of transferring ownership of Memorial Stadium from the city to Indiana State University.

On June 27, interested and affected parties held a lengthy meeting on the subject and brought to light a sozen or more problems that would have to be

Transfer of Ownership Considered

Continued From Page One.

worked out before such transfer could be made.

At the conclusion of that meeting, a study group representing each of the interested groups was formed to explore the problem fully. Monday's meeting will hear reports of initial findings of this group.

Problems Raised

The proposal to transfer the facility to ISU raises many problems. The city owns the facility but the county owns the land. The city operates a golf course on the stadium grounds, also stores equipment in the stadium. High school football teams play games there, as does the university football team. In addition, many community events are staged at the stadium each year.

Underlying the entire problem is the cost of maintenance to the structure. Estimates of the cost of renovation of the stadium have run as high as $200,000. Mayor Ralph Tucker has pointed out the city has not been able to spend the money required for maintenance because of the limited use of the stadium.

And [illegible] its ultimate fate, the stadium stands as a memorial to the veterans of World War I. and many local officials have indicated it is important to them that the "memorial" aspect of Memorial Stadium be preserved regardless of who operates it.

Those requested by White to investigate and report at Monday night's meeting are Sid Levin of the Park Board, Dr. Malcolm Boone of the City Council, Kermit Nees of the County Commissioners, Ray Thomas of the Board of Public Works and Safety, and Everett S. Branam Sr. of the County Council. Dr. Alan C. Rankin, president of ISU, named Kenneth Moulton of the university executive body to represent him.

MEMORIAL STADIUM

MEMORIAL STADIUM

T.H. Recreation

Continue Stadium Transfer Talks

T.H. Star 7/16/66

An informal meeting among representatives of the city, county and Indiana State University officials Monday night produced unanimous agreement that the efforts to transfer Memorial Stadium to ISU should continue.

Those attending agreed soundings of the sentiments of all members of the Vigo County Council and Board of Commissioners, the City Council and Terre Haute Park Board should be made to hasten favorable action.

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Dr. Alan C. Rankin, ISU president, stressed the "memorial" aspect of the stadium will be retained if the plan is approved. The stadium was erected in 1924 as a memorial to Vigo County men who fought in World War I. He also said the golf course would continue to be available for public use.

"We want to do everything we can to perpetuate the war memorial portion," said Rankin. Members present at the meeting agreed the only notable opposition to the proposal came from persons concerned about the retention of the stadium as a memorial.

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Don High, superintendent of parks who recently submitted his resignation, raised another issue when he said the Park Department might be deprived of storage and garage space if the stadium would be turned over to the university. However,

See STADIUM
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Stadium

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Dr. Rankin, pointing out ISU would not be using the facility during the winter months, said an agreement might be reached so the city could continue to utilize the space under the grandstand for storage of playground equipment during the off season.

The ISU president said preliminary plans by the university call for demolition of the bleacher portions of the stadium, retaining only the grandstand portion. The football field would then be relocated, running in a northwest to southeast direction. ISU would then construct 12,000 bleacher seats in what is presently the outfield of the park, bringing seating capacity to between 17,000 and 18,000 persons.

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The stadium would then be purely a football facility, said Rankin, and could no longer be used for baseball. Also, the field could not be used for football games other than the university's since the football turf must be maintained in good condition. It was pointed out Vigo County's two new high schools will have their own football facilities, thus eliminating their need for the stadium.

Everett Branam, Sr., president of the Vigo County Council, said the stadium will revert to the county, if the city decides to no longer maintain the facility. The county owns the land at the site while the city operates the stadium and golf course by contract with the county.

It would then be up to the county council, according to Branam, what would be done with the stadium. Dr. Rankin then offered to send a representative to the next county council meeting to answer any questions on the proposal and Branam accepted.

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Malcolm Boone, president of the City Council, said he thought a majority of council members would be in favor of the transfer, especially since it would probably take a bond issue of more than $150,000 to repair the stadium.

W. L. White and Sid Levin, both members of the Park board, spoke in favor of the proposal, as did Raymond Thomas, city controller, who spoke for the administration. Harry Brentlinger, president of the Board of County Commissioners, said he thought the commissioners would favor the plan.

Branam would not speak for the county council, saying they would have to meet on the proposal. The council's next meeting is Wednesday and Branam said the subject will be brought up then.

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Brentlinger said it would be to the county taxpayers' advantage to favor the project, since the stadium would be repaired and made availale to the public. Agreement was expressed by J. Kenneth Moulton, ISU vice president and treasurer, who said the university looked upon the venture as an investment from which it expected to get its money back.

"This would be a major step toward bringing big time football to Terre Haute," said Moulton, who indicated the lack of an adequate facility was one of ISU's biggest headaches.

The participants agreed a list of users of the stadium over the past several years should be drawn up so that an idea of public usage could be obtained.

The meeting was called by White after a similar meeting June 27. Also in attendance at the meeting was John Watson, who is expected to succeed High as superintendent of parks.